

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor : Akira Yamamori, et al.  
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Examiner : Steven Blount  
Art Unit : 2616

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a Supplementary European Search Report and Annex to the European Search Report dated January 24, 2008 for corresponding European Application EP 99 92 2543. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the European Search Report and Annex to the European Search Report.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed

as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed together with an RCE and prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due. However any fee determined due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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